

Youth Initiative Program

August 2006

Network Providers Newsletter

Issue 8

MEETING REMINDER

The Youth Initiative Program (YIP) will hold its next networking meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday 17, 2006, at 5300 E. Paisano, El Paso Housing Authority - Assembly Room. Please make plans to attend. For information call the YIP office at (915) 298-9600.



This month YIP will feature motivational speaker Patrick Perez, the 2005 World Championship of Public Speaking semi-finalist, and director of Lead, Encourage, And Dance (L.E.A.D.).

Patrick is a unique blend of entertainer and speaker who combines humor, music and dance to deliver memorable messages about positive life choices, i.e., goal setting, drug use, abstinence.

Patrick is this year's Small Business Association's District Young Entrepreneur of the Year and is a recent graduate from UTEP having earned his Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies.

Region 19 has begun sponsoring area schools and youth centers as part of LEAD's "Wait Until You're Great" sexual abstinence educational program. Contact: mperez@utep.edu or 915-577-9057. Also check www.leadencourageanddance.org.



Local Team Plays at Nationals

From June 22 to July 2, local girls from all over the city competed against the top teams in the country in their respective age division, 9 and under. To qualify for Nationals, a team competes in a super regional Amateur Athletic Union/AAU tournament and must finish as champions or runners-up in order to qualify. There are 61 regions across the USA to include Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Guam. A total of 29 teams made it to Nationals but over 120 qualified. Our team tied for 5th place with a team representing West Virginia. There is a national website at aagirlsbasketball.org with photos and brackets of the participating teams.

The AAU site coordinator complimented us on our friendliness and sportsmanship, which to me was worth more than winning the championship. *Well, maybe not the championship.* 😊

Our organization is in its first year and was started by the head coach, Elizabeth Candelaria, who I've assisted for the last two years in coaching duties. The organization is called "The El Paso Sun" and we have all age groups represented from u/8 through u/14. The u/9 and u/11 were the only teams that qualified for Nationals. - "Article submitted by EPPD Officer Martin Ramirez, pictured at right"



Flood Emergency Rations

Bottled water & money: donate to the **Red Cross** at 3620 Admiral St., 8-5 PM, M-F, 915-592-0208.

Canned goods: **Salvation Army** at 4300 E. Paisano or 2111 Wyoming, Th-Sat & Mon., 9-5 PM, 915-544-9811.



Texas Gang Investigator's Association Officer of the Year

An El Paso Police Department Central Tactical Gang Officer is one of two in Texas to receive the Texas Gang Investigator's Association (TGIA) Officer of the Year Award. Officer Juan Ortiz, an 8-year veteran currently assigned to the Central Regional Command Tactical Gang and Special Operations Unit, received the recognition at the TGIA Gang Conference in San Antonio, Texas on June 28th 2006.

Officer Ortiz is credited for playing a crucial role in the Unit being named as El Paso Police Department's 2005 Unit of the Year. He was instrumental in the success of the Department's first gang injunction that helped curb gang activity in the Segundo Barrio, an area once known for high crime, gang and narcotic activity. Congratulations to Officer Juan Ortiz!



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Little Moments. Big Magic.™



Patrick has encouraged over 100K students internationally to realize their full potential through goal setting and the power of their choices.



Just by being there, mentors ("Bigs") help children ("Littles") build the confidence they need to deal with everyday challenges. Through simple friendship, "Littles" discover a world of possibilities and opportunities. Call now to volunteer or enroll a child! 1724 Wyoming 915-544-4203 El Paso, Tx. 79902 fax: 915-544-4368 www.bbbsfep.org



During the recent application cycle for the American Legion Legacy Scholarships, the Legion granted six \$5,000 college scholarships. This is the fund that contributes to the Soldier-4-Soldier ink jet and cell phone collection program. The scholarships are for the children of service personnel killed in action since 9-11. For information, contact: John McKinney at 915-598-4348.

Ft. Bliss Commander Thanks Community

Last week marked the end of the fourth annual month long Freedom Fiesta celebration.

As many of you know, Freedom Fiesta is a wonderful El Paso -- Unique celebration of our soldiers and their families. Thanks to this community, hundreds of soldiers and families were given the opportunity to attend ball games, movies, concerts, car races, dinners, and a picnic attended by nearly 5,000 soldiers at little or no cost. The generosity and hard work of many employees of local businesses, individuals and civic organizations, who contributed both time and money, made this celebration possible. The community of El Paso, the Chamber of Commerce and the Omar N. Bradley Chapter of the Association of the United States Army all worked together and made this fun-filled month one to remember.

Fort Bliss is lucky to be surrounded by this great community -- the largest and most patriotic city around an Army base in the United States. My personal thanks to the El Paso community for what you do every day, all year, to honor and support our men and women in uniform.

Maj. Gen. Robert Lennox
Commanding General
Fort Bliss

(excerpt: El Paso Times, July 12, 2006
– Opinion section)



The El Paso Police Department working in partnership with the City of El Paso Street Department Anti-Graffiti Unit would like to enlist the help of the community in an effort to remove graffiti throughout the city. Graffiti in the area affects everyone, prompt reporting and removal is key in the eradication of graffiti. The community is encouraged to take advantage of the many easy options that are available for reporting graffiti.

The El Paso Police Department's website (www.eppd.org) offers online graffiti reporting forms as well as a link to the City's Anti-Graffiti website (<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/graffiti/graffiti.asp>). Anyone who observes or becomes aware of graffiti may have it removed by calling **The City of El Paso Anti-Graffiti 24-hour reporting hot line at 621-6789**. This program can be used to remove graffiti from private and/or public property and includes street signs. Anyone who observes graffiti in progress can call Police Communications at 832-4400 to report the incident. Anyone who has information on an incident involving graffiti is asked to contact Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS(8477).



The Department of State Health Services is hosting the Texas Youth Tobacco Awareness Certification for instructors. It will be held at 401 E. Franklin in the 2nd floor conference room. The 2-day certification training takes place Aug. 14 and 15, 2006. It is a new curriculum and everyone will need to get certified. To attend, please register at the following website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tobacco/pdf/pp.pdf>.



HELP · HOPE · HEALING

The Help Hope Healing Victim's Conference will be held on September 23rd, 2006.

A Victim's Walk Across El Paso will be held on Sept. 17th. A core group of about ten walkers will make the entire 22-mile journey; victim's agencies from around the region are being asked to join. Each agency will walk a two-mile segment of the overall distance. At any one point it is expected that there will be thirty to forty participants. Contact Aaron Setliff at 472-4826. Join the Walk on September 17th!



School's Back!

With many students soon returning to school, preparation for their academic progress can never be too early! Here are a few tips:

- 1) Sit down with your child and look over the report card.
- 2) Praise your child. Find at least one good thing: attendance, effort.
- 3) Be calm! Let your child tell you about their poor grades.
- 4) Ask how you can help your child do better.
- 5) Ask what your child can do to make better grades.
- 6) Make a plan with your child's teacher and your child to do better.
- 7) Be realistic about your expectations and your child's capabilities.
- 8) Spend time checking that your child's schoolwork is completed.

Substance Abuse Services

The Outreach, Screening, Assessment and Referral (OSAR) and Access to Recovery (ATR) programs offer free drug services to youth/adults. Counseling, crisis help line services (1-866-373-1253), and transportation to treatment are provided. Contact: Michael Banegas at 915-521-7818 or mbanegas@thomasoncares.org.

Seat Belt Laws

Texas law states that all children under 17 must be properly secured in a safety belt or child safety seat. Children under 5 years old or less than 36 inches tall must ride in a child safety seat.



Children under a year old and less than 20 lbs., should ride in a rear facing seat.

Children at least one year old and between 20 & 40 lbs, should sit in forward facing seats.



Children between 40 and 80 lbs., over 4 years of age, should sit in booster seats.

"Quick Tips"

- * All children 12 and under are safest when secured in the back seat. NEVER put an infant in a rear-facing safety seat in front of an airbag.
- * Seats should be appropriate for the child's height and weight.
- * Not all safety seats can be in all vehicles and all seating positions (side facing jump seats found in the extended cabs of pickup trucks are not appropriate for a child safety seat under any circumstances)
- * If a safety seat is more that 5 years old or has been involved in a crash, it should be replaced.

For information about child safety seats, or to have your safety seat checked, call the El Paso Police Department's Safe Communities Program at 915-564-7352.



Westside Regional Command Blood Drive

Helping to meet the desired goal in the blood drive are (top) EPPD Explorer Gustavo Lozano and (bottom) former UTEP Head Basketball Coach Don Haskins, with Westside Officers. Thanks to everyone who turned out to donate blood!

Disabilities Parent's Alliance

The El Paso del Norte will be holding a 2-day workshop exploring the principles of self-determination and freedom to help people with disabilities changes their lives: Aug. 8-9, 2006, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Faith Methodist Church, 1008 Grama, El Paso, 79903. Contact Carmen Ramirez at 915-755-1131 or nemrac1952@sbcglobal.net.

Assistive Technology Exposition Fair

Learn about state-of-the art assistive technology on Monday, Aug. 28th. The free event will be held at the El Paso Community College, Professional Development Center, Administrative Bldg., 9050 Viscount, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. RSVP Carmen Ramirez 915-544-8484.



The Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition will be holding the Annual Retreat for key members of the coalition on **August 10, 2006 from 8:30am - 5:00pm at Ardivino's Desert Crossing in Sunland Park, NM.**

You are invited to join in sharing your ideas and information, networking and most importantly mapping the course that will best address this region's growing alcohol and drug related challenges.

Seating is limited, so make your reservation soon. Contact Victoria Chaffino at 915-775-2555.

Youth In Action Starts at Parkland High School

Youth in Action (YIA), a student-involvement program under MADD, will be implemented at Parkland High; fourteen students have been selected for this newly formed program that will include the EPPD and TABC.

YIA's mission is to reduce social & retail access of alcohol to minors & support the enforcement of underage drinking laws. YIA partners adult leaders with students and the community to implement environmental prevention strategies, focus on policy change and strengthen enforcement of underage drinking laws. This approach provides teens with a vehicle to take the lead in changing the social, legal and economic environment within young people to make responsible decisions about using alcohol.

Youth In Action is designed for replication at other high schools; an adult facilitator or coordinator from the school would be required. For information, contact the MADD office, El Paso District Chapter, at 779-1987.

Emergency Preparation training for Community Health workers will be held on Friday, August 11, 2006 at the EPCC-Mission Del Paso Bldg. E1-Rm 13, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Contact Kay Carpenter 979-845-2387 or USACenter@srph.tamhsc.edu.

TEENS, TECHNOLOGY, AND DRUGS: AN INSIDE LOOK

Technology such as text messaging and the Internet is facilitating drug use for many of America's teens. Many are being exposed to drugs through chat rooms and social networking sites. To address this growing problem, a "Teens & Technology" effort is underway from the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. To view a press release about the effort, visit www.MediaCampaign.org.

New Web content on TheAntiDrug.Com and an Open Letter to Parents will help parents and other members of your community demystify the ways in which technology can aid teen drug use and show parents how they can monitor teens' digital activities.

You can help your community understand the connection between Teens, Technology, and Drugs by visiting the "Teens & Technology" section on TheAntiDrug.com to:

(http://www.theantidrug.com/drug_info/girls-and-drugs-index.aspx)

* Visit Digital Technology 101 and gain insight about technology in teens' lives such as social networking sites, cell phones, and instant messaging. <http://www.theantidrug.com/E-Monitoring/tutorial-home.asp>

* Get tips on decoding teens' online lingo. <http://www.theantidrug.com/E-Monitoring/internet-lingo.asp>

* Learn about specific tools parents can use to monitor their teens' use of technology. <http://www.theantidrug.com/E-Monitoring/need-extra-help.asp>

* Sign up to receive a Parenting Tips e-newsletter.

<http://www.theantidrug.com/newsletter.asp?email=Enter+an+email+address>

Additionally, the "Teens & Technology" Open Letter to Parents will launch this week in the top 27 media markets in national and local newspapers and Select magazines. Seven health, parenting, and media education organizations Signed the letter, including: American Academy of Pediatrics; Cable in the Classroom; i-SAFE, Inc.; National Institute on Media and the Family; Partnership for A Drug-Free America; PTA; and Web Wise Kids.

A customizable PDF of the Open Letter is available for download on TheAntiDrug.com at: www.TheAntiDrug.com/OpenLetter. The Open Letter can be used in your community. For access to this password-protected page, please e-mail us at nyac@theantidrug.com with your name, contact information and description of your organization. Include "TECHNOLOGY OPEN LETTER AD" in the Subject line. You'll also find tips for customizing & distributing Open Letter.

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